

## **Important Definitions**

*Tropical Storm Watch:* Tropical Storm conditions are possible in the specified area of the Watch, usually within 36 hours.

*Tropical Storm Warning:* Tropical Storm conditions are expected in the specified area of the Warning, usually within 24 hours.

*Hurricane Watch:* Hurricane conditions are possible in the specified area of the Watch, usually within 36 hours. During a Hurricane Watch, prepare to take immediate action to protect your family and property in case a Hurricane Warning is issued.

*Hurricane Warning:* Hurricane conditions are expected in the specified area of the Warning, usually within 24 hours. Complete all storm preparations and evacuate if directed by local officials.

*Saffir/Simpson Hurricane Scale:*

### **Category One**

Winds 74-95 MPH

Or Storm Surge Above 4-5 feet above normal.\*

### **Category Two**

Winds 96-110 MPH

Or Storm surge 6 feet above normal.\*

### **Category Three**

Winds 111-130 MPH

Or storm surge 9-12 feet above normal.\*

### **Category Four**

Winds 131-155 MPH

Or storm surge 13-18 feet above normal.\*

## **Category Five**

Winds 155 MPH and greater

Or storm surge greater than 18 feet above normal.\*

*\*Actual storm surge values will vary considerably depending on coastal configurations and other factors.*

*Voluntary Evacuations:* If you live in a low-lying area (i.e. a barrier island or areas subject to flooding) or a mobile home, you should strongly consider evacuating if emergency officials issue a voluntary evacuations order. The earlier you leave, the less congestion you will face. Those of you not living in such areas should still have evacuation plans in place in case a mandatory evacuation order is issued.

*Mandatory Evacuations:* Evacuation orders are very serious and only issued when there is sufficient evidence that the area is in danger. It is important to note that under mandatory evacuations, **your route is determined for you.**

**Evacuation:** When evacuating, it is important to know the evacuation route from your home, along with several emergency-meeting locations along the route. This is especially helpful for families traveling in more than one vehicle. In an emergency situation it is also important that the vehicle you will be traveling in is in working condition and has a sufficient amount of fuel. If you wait until a mandatory evacuation is called, you must take the evacuation route assigned by the South Carolina Department of Transportation in order to quickly and effectively evacuate your specific area.

